

From: Gromer, David [Gromer.David@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/26/2019 2:42:56 PM
Subject: News Clips

Region 2 News

Dedication ceremony held for Waverly wastewater plant (MORNING TIMES; August 26, 2019)

Dozens of officials who all had a hand in the long, complex upgrade project at the Waverly wastewater treatment plant toured the newly-renovated facility on Wednesday as part of a dedication ceremony to cap off approximately 18 months of work.

Toxic algae blooms found in Central Park, Prospect Park (PIX 11; August 25, 2019)

Dangerous algae blooms have been found in ponds in Central Park and Prospect Park over the last two weeks, state officials confirmed.

Tainted water, ignored warnings and a boss with a criminal past (NEW YORK TIMES; August 24)

In the year after receiving test results showing alarming levels of lead in the city's drinking water, Mayor Ras Baraka of Newark made a number of unexpected decisions.

7-story waste pile to be cleaned up after judge deals blow to man who created it (NJ ADANCE MEDIA; August 23, 2019)

The order stands: The seven-story tall pile of dirt and debris towering in a rural North Jersey neighborhood has to be cleaned up.

Mid-Hudson political leaders, environmentalists back suit challenging end of Hudson River dredging (DAILY FREEMAN; August 23, 2019)

Mid-Hudson Valley political leaders and environmentalists have lauded New York state's lawsuit against a federal agency decision not to compel further polychlorinated biphenyls dredging of the Hudson River.

Dutchess County to file brief supporting lawsuit filed against EPA to vacate Hudson River cleanup certificate (DAILY FREEMAN; August 23, 2019)

County Executive Marc Molinaro announced on Friday that Dutchess County will file an amicus-curiae brief with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York in support of the New York State lawsuit filed against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Pallone says 'living shorelines' can help protect coastal towns from flooding (NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT NEWS; August 23, 2019)

In the battle against rising ocean levels, so-called living shorelines are a less expensive — and some say better — alternative to jetties, seawalls and other man-made barriers, a natural remedy that can be especially effective in helping bayside communities deal with coastal flooding.

Budd Lake Beach closed for season, still impacted by algal bloom (NEW JERSEY HERALD; August 23, 2019)

Although Budd Lake Beach officially closed for the season on Aug. 18, the beach posted a message effective Tuesday for its followers to continue to avoid contact with the lake's water

Sight of web worms in local trees not cause for alarm (NEW JERSEY HERALD; August 23, 2019)

Web worms are not internet tunes that get in your head.

Experts offer ways to combat algal blooms (NEW JERSEY HERALD; August 22, 2019)

The creation of rain gardens and stormwater utilities were a couple of the points a panel of experts offered on Tuesday night at the Lake Mohawk Country Club during a special informational meeting about harmful algal blooms.

State: Harmful algal bloom in Greenwood Lake has increased (NEW JERSEY HERALD; August 22, 2019)

Reports from the state Department of Environmental Protection showed the harmful algal bloom in Greenwood Lake has increased.

Building on sand: The effort to protect Long Island's communities, beaches (NEWSDAY; August 22, 2019)

Picture a washing machine. Now imagine nearly 50 million of them lining the 6.5-mile strip of white sand at Wantagh's Jones Beach State Park, located just 35 miles east of Manhattan on a barrier island in the Great South Bay claimed by both Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Politicians Renew Support For Cleanup Of Navy-Grumman Plume (LONG BEACH, PATCH; August 22, 2019)

The reaffirmed calls come after Northrop Grumman deemed the state's \$585 million plan to clean the plume "impractical."

Owner of massive illegal dump agrees to cut back on work as state investigates (NJ ADVANCE MEDIA; August 22, 2019)

For at least the next month, neighbors of a massive illegal dump in Ocean County will get a reprieve.

New York Among Major Cities Violating Ozone Standards, EPA Says (BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT; August 22, 2019)

The EPA has determined that Chicago, Dallas, Houston-Galveston, New York City, and San Diego are in serious violation of the 2008 national ozone standards, up from being just "moderately" out of compliance with the limits.

They wing it at weather-weakened bird fest (QUEENS CHRONICLE; August 22, 2019)

As passionate birders and wildlife advocates walked the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Center's trail, they spent just as much time swatting away mosquitoes as they did spotting shorebirds.

Governor Cuomo And Attorney General James Announce Lawsuit Against Trump Administration Over Hudson River Cleanup (WATER ONLINE; August 21, 2019)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Attorney General Letitia James recently filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violating federal law when it issued a "Certificate of Completion" to General Electric Company for its removal of polychlorinated biphenyls from the Hudson River.

NATIONAL

Air

[Alaska Public Media: Will EPA veto Pebble? Boss of agency says it's not his call](#)
[Bloomberg Environment: EPA Gets to Keep Emissions Modeling Equations Close to Vest](#)
[E&E News: Calif. car deal could have big impact on CO2](#)
[E&E News: Vistra plant closures set stage for Ill. energy debate](#)
[Morgan County Citizen: EPA air test heightens fears](#)
[National Geographic: "Air Pollution Linked to Bipolar Disorder, Depression"](#)
[Power Magazine: EPA's Final Regional Haze Guidance Highlights State Discretion, Flexibility](#)

Biofuel

[Bloomberg Environment: White House Weighs Moves to Blunt Farm-State Fallout on Biofuel](#)
[Greenwire: Industry wants face-to-face meeting with Trump](#)
[Reuters: Trump to meet with USDA, EPA chiefs on Thursday over biofuels policy: sources](#)

Chemicals

[Bloomberg Environment: INSIGHT: Protecting the Value of Health, Safety Studies—Emerging TSCA Issues \(Part 1\)](#)
[Bustle: What Are PFAS? Your Takeout Containers Could Have Them & You Wouldn't Know](#)
[CNN \(Video at link\): Farmer is dumping 12,000 gallons of milk a day. Here's why](#)
[New York Times: Workers at Big Government Lab Sue Over Exposure to a Toxic Chemical](#)

Climate

[E&E News: How world leaders have dealt with Trump's Paris withdrawal](#)

Enforcement

[Bloomberg Environment: "Justice Changes Environmental Enforcement for States and Cities"](#)

Personnel

[Bloomberg Environment: EPA's Architect of Lean Management Stepping Down from No. 2 Role](#)
[Greenwire: Acting deputy steps down](#)
[Inside EPA: Benevento Expected To Be Named EPA's Acting Deputy Administrator](#)

Pesticides

[Quartz: Half a billion dead honey bees in Brazil show what happens when you roll back pesticide regulations](#)

Spill Prevention

[Greenwire: Enviros decry EPA 'do-nothing' rule on chemical spills](#)

Superfund

[Associated Press: State officials sue EPA, seeking more Hudson River cleanup](#)
[Greenwire: Smelter site owner: Case could derail Superfund law](#)
[KPAX: Missoula County to EPA: Keep focus, funding on pulp mill cleanup](#)
[Patch.com: Representative Mikie Sherrill Visits Chatham Landfill](#)

Water

[Bloomberg Environment: Trump EPA Gets Symbolic Court Win on Waters Rule](#)
[Fox 43: New report shows increasing sewage releases from Harrisburg, unsafe bacteria levels in river](#)
[Greenwire: Judge slaps down Obama-era WOTUS, but greens see bright side](#)
[Greenwire: Maui advocates push county to drop Clean Water Act case](#)

FULL Articles Region 2

MORNING TIMES

Dedication ceremony held for Waverly wastewater plant

• By Johnny Williams

•

Dozens of officials who all had a hand in the long, complex upgrade project at the Waverly wastewater treatment plant toured the newly-renovated facility on Wednesday as part of a dedication ceremony to cap off approximately 18 months of work.

Members and officials of the plant, village sewer and trustee boards, Barton town board, construction and engineering companies, and state and federal offices all toured the extensive operation.

The approximately \$15 million endeavor was not without its fair share of roadblocks and difficult situations — which all of the officials acknowledged — but, like the village did when Interstate 86 was constructed, the people of Waverly pushed forward.



“It was an absolute pleasure to work with the village throughout this project,” Mike Primmer of Delaware Engineering said. “They approached this with a high amount of common sense, which is pretty refreshing, to be honest.”

“It’s really hard to wrap your head around what everyone did to make this happen,” Mayor Patrick Ayres said. “There were so many people who were very instrumental throughout this entire process.”

The plant, which was first constructed in 1980, was in need of upgrades mostly because of a federal mandate that calls for sewage treatment facilities to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in its effluent discharge as part of an effort to reduce pollutants into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The project was especially difficult due to its relative uniqueness — embracing relatively new membrane filtering technology through Kubota Corporation while simultaneously refurbishing other equipment and infrastructure. Village officials have noted in the past how officials from the state department of environmental conservation have watched the ambitious plan unfold to see how it could be applied to other plants throughout the state.

“Essentially, the old plant continued to operate while the new one was being built,” Ayres said. “I’m sure it was difficult, trying and frustrating for both the construction crews and our facility crew, but it was done. And now we have a tremendous facility for the future.”

Former Waverly Mayor Dan Leary recounted the times when the sewer plant was first constructed in 1980 after the village was cited for polluting the nearby Cayuta Creek.

“This was a tremendous project,” he said. “And honestly, when we built the first plant 39 years ago, I didn’t think I would be around to dedicate the next one, but time goes by pretty fast.”

Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Pete Lopez said the project was a reflection of protecting the community.



“We all care about the environment,” he said. “We want to keep it clean for future generations. Anything we contribute to the environment affects others just as this project protects the surrounding communities.”

The renovation’s cost was originally projected to be in the neighborhood of \$16.8 million, so the project actually finished under budget, officials said.



Up to 25 percent of the endeavor's expenses are covered by a New York State Water Grant. The remaining cost of the project was funded through a "Net to Finance" loan that the village received from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That loan is payable over the next 30 years and would have a zero percent interest rate.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

PIX 11

Toxic algae blooms found in Central Park, Prospect Park

By Aliza Chasan and CNN WIRE

August 25, 2019

Dangerous algae blooms have been found in ponds in Central Park and Prospect Park over the last two weeks, state officials confirmed.

The same cyanobacteria shut down lakes and waterways across New Jersey. It also killed dogs at a North Carolina pond.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation has warned people, pets and pets to avoid contact.

What is toxic algae?

Algae occurs naturally in water, but the blue-green variety are considered Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are "primitive," photosynthetic organisms that can feed off the sun to make their own energy and release oxygen and possibly toxins in the process, said David G. Schmale III, a professor at Virginia Tech.

Some species produce potent toxins that can sicken or even kill people, pets and wildlife, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. Blue-green algae and other HABs can produce different types of poisons, some that affect the liver, others the brain.

Schmale said he hasn't seen a coroner's report to verify the causes of death, still he speculates the dogs were thirsty and the water contaminated. "Samples of the water where the dogs were likely exposed will need to be tested" for toxins and bacteria to verify this, though, he said.

Where do these algae grow?

Harmful algae can bloom in both fresh and marine water. They've been observed in large freshwater lakes, smaller inland lakes, rivers, reservoirs and marine coastal areas and estuaries in all 50 states, according to Schmale.

Toxic algae can also grow in decorative ponds as well as backyard pools, providing homeowners with a good reason to properly sanitize swimming water.

What do toxic algae look like?

Toxic algae can look like foam, scum, or mats on the surface of water, said Schmale. Harmful algae blooms, which can be blue, vibrant green, brown or red, are sometimes mistaken for paint floating on the water.

Toxic algae often stink, sometimes producing a downright nauseating smell, yet animals may be attracted to the smell and taste of them, according to the EPA.

How do I know if my dog has been exposed?

Symptoms, which usually arise anywhere from 15 minutes to several days after exposure, include diarrhea or vomiting, weakness or staggering, drooling, difficulty breathing and convulsions or seizures, the EPA reports.

Immediately, take your pet to the vet if you see these symptoms.

Dogs, more than other pets, are especially vulnerable because of their tendency to play in water and so sometimes they drink the toxic algae, other times they lick it off their fur. Even dogs that avoid the water may be in danger. Many dogs like to scavenge the shore where they may find — and eat — drying clumps of algae.

One study identified 368 cases of toxic algae poisoning associated with dogs throughout the US over a nine-decade period, but the researchers believe this represents only "a small fraction of cases that occur throughout the US each year."

How do I keep my dog safe?

If you spot the algae, leave the area and don't let your dog drink or swim in the water. If your dog has already gotten into a harmful bloom, rinse your pet off immediately in fresh, clean water. Remember to wear gloves to protect yourself. And, if you know you've been in contact with the bloom, immediately wash with soap and water.

Can I be harmed by the algae?

When high concentrations of these cyanotoxins are consumed, they can poison not only domestic animals but also humans, said Schmale. Contact with toxic algae can cause rashes, stomach cramps, nausea, diarrhea and vomiting.

Not only are these poisons present in water, but they can also accumulate along the food chain. “Ultimately, the entire food web is impacted because these toxins are produced,” said Schmale. As a result, food contaminated with HABs have caused a variety of illnesses, and, in the most severe cases, lead to paralysis and respiratory failure, according the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Eating contaminated shellfish can cause symptoms within 15 minutes or up to 10 hours after finishing a meal. While mostly symptoms are mild, they can include tingling or numbness in the face, arms, and legs, headache, dizziness, loss of coordination and in rare cases, paralysis and respiratory failure.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NY TIMES

Tainted water, ignored warnings and a boss with a criminal past

By Nick Corasaniti, Corey Kilgannon and John Schwartz

August 24, 2019

In the year after receiving test results showing alarming levels of lead in this city’s drinking water, Mayor Ras Baraka of Newark made a number of unexpected decisions.

He mailed a brochure to all city residents assuring them that “the quality of water meets all federal and state standards.”

He declared the water safe and then condemned, in capital letters on the city’s website, “outrageously false statements” to the contrary.

And he elevated an official to run the city’s water department who had served four years in prison for conspiring to sell five kilograms of cocaine.

The moves were the latest in a long line of questionable actions that have created one of the biggest environmental crises to hit a major American city in recent years. This month, the city told tens of thousands of Newark residents to drink bottled water, but only after receiving a stern warning from federal officials about lead leaching into tap water from aging pipes.

The water emergency has torn at the fabric of Newark, recalling the public health crisis over lead contamination in Flint, Mich., and highlighting the decay of the nation’s infrastructure, particularly in poorer cities.

It has sowed anger, anxiety and confusion among residents, who question whether the city’s negligence has endangered its youngest citizens. More than 13 percent of the children in New Jersey afflicted with elevated lead levels in 2017 were in Newark, which accounted for only 3.8 percent of the state’s children.

The crisis could also cast a shadow over the presidential campaign of Senator Cory Booker, who served as Newark’s mayor from 2006 to 2013.

In 2013, an agency that Mr. Booker had revamped was gutted over a scandal involving kickbacks, no-show contracts and millions of dollars in wasted public funds. Eight officials were later charged in federal indictments, six of whom pleaded guilty.

Some advocacy groups claim that the scandal distracted Newark officials from monitoring the water supply, possibly setting the stage for the current lead crisis.



Mayor Ras Baraka of Newark has defended his performance and lashed out at federal officials, saying they had refused to give the city money to pay for new pipes and bottled water. Credit Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

An investigation by The New York Times, based on dozens of interviews and hundreds of pages of public records, reveals blunders at all levels of government in safeguarding Newark's water infrastructure. City officials brushed aside warnings and allowed the system to deteriorate, while state and federal regulators often did not intervene forcefully enough to help prevent the crisis.

"There clearly has been a systemic failure," said Erik Olson, a senior director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group that has sued the city over the lead levels. "Residents of Newark are the ones harmed by the top-to-bottom failures of government."

In fact, as the crisis has grown in recent weeks, officials have turned on one another, in an apparent effort to shift blame.

In an interview, Mayor Baraka defended his performance and lashed out at federal environmental officials, saying they had repeatedly refused to give the city money to pay for new pipes and bottled water.

"We have been getting no love from them, from that place at all," Mr. Baraka said, adding that he was not criticizing the federal scientists on the ground in Newark.

Mr. Baraka defended his decision to appoint Kareem Adeem as acting director of the water department in November, overseeing a system that provides water to 400,000 people in the city and surrounding communities.

In 2011, Mr. Adeem was released from federal prison after serving four years for conspiring to sell five kilograms of cocaine, according to court records.

Mr. Adeem, who worked lower-level jobs in the department before prison, received the \$130,000-a-year position but does not have a college degree. He was deputy director of the department before becoming acting director.

“His knowledge of this stuff is unparalleled,” Mr. Baraka said. “There’s no one else in the city who has the level of information, and I have full confidence that he knows what he’s doing.”

For his part, Mr. Adeem said he and his team were working hard to address the crisis.

“Early on in my life, I made some bad choices,” he said. “I got a second chance. And I’m going to take full advantage of my second chance, helping my city that I love.”

Judith Enck, a former E.P.A. regional administrator whose territory included New Jersey, said officials who run municipal water systems are typically engineers.

“It’s not an easy job,” she said. “There are a lot of regulatory requirements. Someone is in a better position if they’ve got an engineering background and some management experience.”



The first test results to show sharply elevated lead levels in Newark were delivered to the city in July 2017. Credit: Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

An impoverished city, an aging water system

Newark, with 285,000 people, is the largest city in New Jersey, but also one of the poorest in the country. It has long struggled with lead contamination, both in the water and from paint in homes.

No concerns have been raised about the source of the water — reservoirs in northern New Jersey. The lead has leached into the tap water from 15,000 antiquated service lines that connect water pipes to homes and businesses.

City and state officials have known for years that the infrastructure was a major risk, but they lacked the funding to replace the aging service lines.

So, the city turned to an approved chemical, sodium silicate, that prevents corrosion and the leaching of lead from pipes into water. For more than two decades, it worked as expected, and no tests showed elevated levels of lead.

Then in 2016, the chemical seemed to stop working.

Here is what appeared to have happened, according to interviews and public records: The year before, the city had tinkered with the water, increasing its acidity to tamp down on possible carcinogens.

But the increased acidity seemed to reduce the effectiveness of the sodium silicate.

Elevated lead levels were found in water in nearly half of the public and charter schools in Newark. City and state officials maintained that findings in the schools were caused largely by internal plumbing and poor maintenance. Yet beginning in 2017, New Jersey switched its water testing requirements, forced some cities to test twice a year for contaminants instead of once every three years.

The first test results to show sharply elevated lead levels in Newark were delivered to the city in July 2017 through a letter of “non-compliance” from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

A coalition of national and local groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, sent a letter to the city demanding more information and urgent measures in response to the results.

They were met with public silence.

Mr. Baraka said in the interview that after the July 2017 letter, Newark began extensive testing as required by state law.

He said the city also notified any homes that had tested positive for lead.

But he maintained that the city simply did not know the extent of the leaching to warrant further actions, like distributing filters to homes.

“We didn’t know if there was a widespread problem, or if there’s a specific problem in people’s homes,” Mr. Baraka said. “That’s why the protocols are in place. So you can continue to do the testing.”



Water is stored at John F. Kennedy School. The lead crisis has sowed anger, anxiety and confusion among residents, who question whether the city’s negligence has endangered children. Credit Joshua Bright for The New York Times.

‘Outrageously false statements’

In January 2018, the second consecutive test results from the state found similar lead levels in Newark’s water, leading to renewed calls from local activists and national groups for transparency and action.

But Mr. Baraka played down the warnings. In the city’s annual water quality brochure, which is required by federal law to be mailed to residents each year, he wrote that the high-lead readings were only in older homes.

“Many of you have heard or read the outrageously false statements about our water but please know that the quality of our water meets all federal and state standards,” the mayor wrote on the first page of the 12-page brochure.

Buried on the fifth page, in a single paragraph, was more extensive information about the consecutive tests showing elevated lead levels.

A month later, a consultant from CDM Smith, a company hired by Newark to conduct a study of the water, sent an email to top officials at the water department, including Mr. Adeem, stating that the chemical the city had been using for nearly 20 years to prevent leaching appeared to be failing.

By this point, the water had become an election issue. Mr. Baraka’s re-election opponent, Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, said the lead levels showed a failure of leadership.

Mr. Baraka dismissed the warnings and rejected comparisons to Flint.

In a statement in capital letters on the city’s website, he railed against “absolutely and outrageously false statements” about the city’s water. (That statement was deleted in October 2018.)

In the interview, Mr. Baraka said he has sought to draw a distinction between Newark’s source water in its reservoirs and water that may have later been contaminated by lead from water mains.

“All I’ve been trying to do is make sure people have the facts,” Mr. Baraka said. “We can disagree and go back and forth on how that messaging was crafted.”

He was re-elected with an overwhelming majority in June 2018. A month later, the city received its third consecutive letter of noncompliance from the state, saying that for 18 consecutive months, Newark’s water was above the federal action level.

In December, the city hired Mercury Public Affairs, a public relations firm that was also contracted by former Gov. Rick Snyder of Michigan during the Flint water crisis. The \$225,000 contract was intended to combat the negative publicity over contaminated water.



Mr. Baraka greeting Senator Cory Booker at a campaign event in May. Mr. Booker, who is running for president, was Newark's mayor from 2006 to 2013. Credit Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

A Cory Booker legacy

Mr. Booker is promoting his environmental achievements as a pillar of his presidential bid, but his tenure as Newark's mayor ended with a scandal that the current water crisis has dragged back into public eye.

The Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation was a public-private agency he revamped and stocked with leadership to handle water operations. But several of the agency's leaders skimmed money and obtained kickbacks, leaving it poorly managed, according to court records and interviews.

"Officials were concerned with taking money, not running a professional water department by hiring chemists and engineers who know how to meet E.P.A. requirements," said Brendan O'Flaherty, a Columbia University economist who served briefly in Mr. Booker's mayoral administration. "They left behind a seriously depleted department that made the sort of mistakes responsible for the current crisis."

A 2014 report by the New Jersey comptroller outlined rampant abuse of public funds and scant oversight.

The atmosphere was such that staff members felt they "could do their own thing," Linda Watkins-Brashear, the agency's former director, later told investigators. She is now in federal prison, one of eight people charged in the scandal.

Mr. Booker came under intense criticism for failing to supervise the troubled agency, but he was never implicated in the scandal.



Newark officials issued a declaration last fall to allow them to purchase and distribute water filters for faucets in homes, according to an internal memorandum. Credit Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

A spokeswoman for Mr. Booker's campaign, Sabrina Singh, said Mr. Booker had fought for years for clean drinking water and improved urban infrastructure "from Newark City Hall to the Capitol."

She said the earlier scandal was unrelated to the current crisis.

"There is just no connection between the people who defrauded Newark residents at the Newark Watershed a decade ago and the very real water crisis impacting Newark residents today — other than they both share one word in common — 'water'," she said.

Still, critics claimed the scandal likely compromised water operations going forward. Newark officials now say that some water testing records were lost during this tumultuous period in the city's water stewardship.

It was around the time that the watershed agency was mired in scandal that acidity levels started increasing, for reasons that remain unclear. Acidity levels were in safe territory until 2015, when a sharp acceleration corroded pipes, leading to lead leaching.

"The first rule of corrosion control is to never let acidic water contact lead pipe" said Marc Edwards, a professor of engineering at Virginia Tech.

He added, based on data in reports by CDM, the consultants, "There was acidic water in the Newark system for quite some time."

Andrew Pappachen, a longtime director of public works in Newark who retired last year, said the city had monitored the water chemistry carefully during the Booker years, stored records carefully and kept acidity levels safe.



Workers removed old water pipes on South 17th Street on Thursday. Newark has long struggled with lead contamination, both in the water and from paint in homes. Credit Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

A scramble to respond

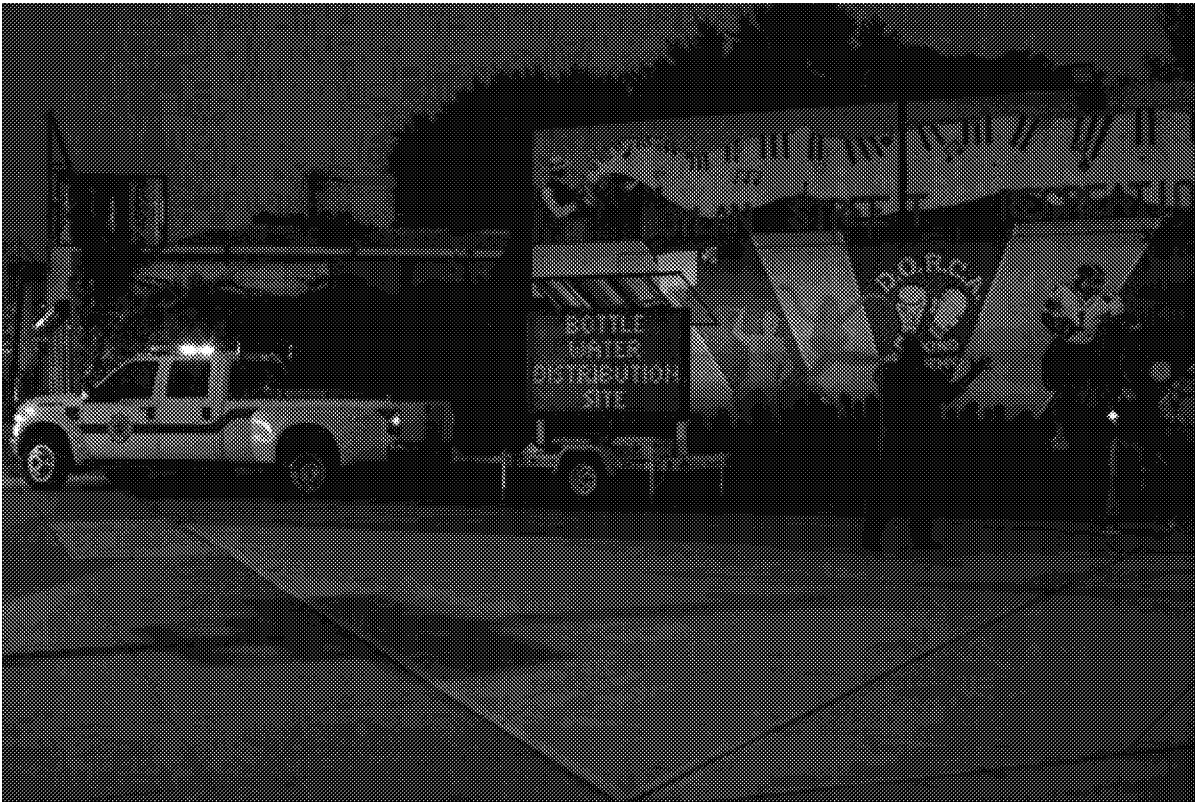
Last October, spurred by alarming test results, officials from city, state and federal agencies moved quickly to try to coordinate a rapid response. Yet that effort soon turned to squabbling and finger pointing.

Newark officials issued an emergency declaration to allow them to purchase and distribute water filters for faucets in homes, according to an internal memorandum. The emergency declaration was never made public.

Then, in May, officials added a new chemical to the water — orthophosphate — that has proved helpful at preventing leaching. The chemical would take roughly six months to be effective.

At the state's urging, the city began testing in homes to see if the orthophosphate was working its way into the water. As a precaution, the state also asked the city to test, for the first time, whether water filters were removing lead.

But the tests revealed two of three filters studied were not properly removing the lead. E.P.A. officials responded by sending a letter on Aug. 9 that threatened penalties "should the state and city not promptly undertake" distribution of bottled water and other actions.



Signs let residents know where to pick up bottled water. "I didn't even know they were giving out free water until my sister called me," one resident said. Credit Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

Gov. Philip D. Murphy and Mayor Baraka then agreed to distribute bottled water, even as their aides began questioning why the E.P.A. had recommended filters that were now in doubt.

"We've gone above and beyond by providing the filters," Catherine McCabe, the commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection. "We're going above and beyond again in figuring out what's wrong with the filters, although that is really something that E.P.A. should be full time focused on."

After a week when state and city officials scrambled to distribute thousands of cases of bottled water and test hundreds of filters, the E.P.A. sent in field technicians and opened its local labs to speed up testing.

In a statement, the agency noted that the city and state had primary responsibility for safeguarding the water. "We continue to work together to find a longer-term solution to address the risks," it said.

For their part, Newark residents will be picking up water for at least another month, until further testing shows lower lead levels.

"This is just a mess. I didn't even know they were giving out free water until my sister called me to tell me," said Adunola Clement, 45, as she picked up water on a recent week. "I don't know what's going on, but they are going to have to do something to fix this."

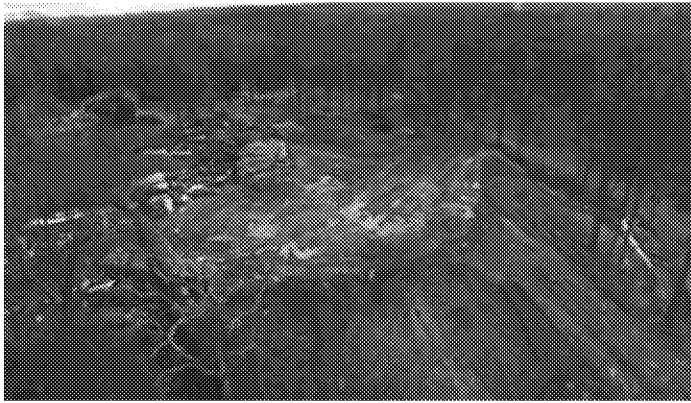
[BACK TO TOP](#)

NJ ADVANCE MEDIA

[7-story waste pile to be cleaned up after judge deals blow to man who created it](#)

By Michael Sol Warren

August 23, 2019



Site of alleged illegal dumping operation of potentially contaminated dirt in a residential neighborhood off Silver Spruce Drive. Vernon, N.J. Dec 3, 2018. (Andre Malok | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)

The order stands: The seven-story tall pile of dirt and debris towering in a rural North Jersey neighborhood has to be cleaned up.

Superior Court Judge Maritza Berdote Byrne on Thursday denied an appeal by Joseph Wallace, the Vernon man who spent years bringing a constant stream of trucks to dump on his property as part of what the state has deemed an unlawful solid waste business.

Wallace had sought to stay a court order issued in June that compels him to halt the importation of all material to his property, turn over information about what exactly is in the pile and clean up any material that is considered solid waste.

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal took to Twitter to announce the court's decision.

"The court was clear: start complying or face sanctions," Grewal wrote.

Wallace's attorney, Jeffrey Patti, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-5th Dist., praised the court's decision to toss out Wallace's appeal. Gottheimer had been a vocal champion of neighbors in their effort to shut down the dump.

"I am glad the court today decided to reject known, convicted polluter Joe Wallace's appeal, so we can continue to stop polluting at the Waste Mountain in Vernon," Gottheimer said. "No family should have to worry that the water they drink or the air they breathe is unsafe. I will continue to monitor the process closely. Mr. Wallace must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Since at least 2011, Wallace has had dump trucks bringing material from mostly unknown sources to his property on Silver Spruce Drive, a private road in a quiet residential neighborhood. NJ Advance Media detailed the activity in an in-depth report published in February.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection took Wallace to court after determining in February that he used his property to run an illegal solid waste facility. A consent order with Wallace allowed state officials to come onto the property and test the pile in March.

Results of that testing, released in April, showed the pile to contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs,) polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and the pesticide chemical chlordane all at levels above the state's standard for residential soil.

PAHs are classified as probable human carcinogens, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PCBs are also linked cancer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as pregnancy complications and other health effects. Exposure to chlordane, according to the CDC, can have a variety of effects on the human nervous system.

Both the March consent order and the June decision required that Wallace turn over records that detail exactly what is in the dirt pile. But to this date, Wallace has only provided documents for two projects not related to his property and receipts for deliveries made after the March consent order, according to the court's decision.

It is unclear what steps will be taken to enforce the court order. According to Thursday's decision, the state "is not seeking coercive or punitive relief at this time, only an Order requiring defendants to immediately comply with the June 3, 2019 Order, including the full and complete production of documents."

But Byrne ended her decision with a warning to Wallace that stricter action could be taken if he doesn't comply.

"Continued non-compliance with court Orders may result in the imposition of sanctions against defendants or the appointment of a special agent to oversee compliance with the court's Order," Byrne wrote.

Aside from the action taken by the state, Wallace faces legal challenges in municipal court where he is accused of dozens of local ordinance violations related to his dumping operation. The next hearing date in that case is scheduled for September 5.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

DAILY FREEMAN

[Mid-Hudson political leaders, environmentalists back suit challenging end of Hudson River dredging](#)

By Paul Kirby

August 23, 2019

Mid-Hudson Valley political leaders and environmentalists have lauded New York state's lawsuit against a federal agency decision not to compel further polychlorinated biphenyls dredging of the Hudson River.

New York officials filed the suit that seeks to vacate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision in April not to compel General Electric Co. to restart dredging for polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, from the upper river. Agency officials had said more time and testing are needed to fully assess the \$1.7 billion Superfund cleanup.

"In light of (the) announcement of legal action to hold GE accountable for the Hudson River PCB cleanup, I want to thank Governor (Andrew) Cuomo and Attorney General (Letitia) James for bringing this lawsuit against the EPA to continue the fight for a clean Hudson River, a vital economic, recreational, natural and cultural resource for millions of people in my Hudson Valley district and beyond," said state Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, who is a Columbia County Democrat, representing the 106th Assembly District. "New Yorkers should never have our right to a healthy environment stolen by

a polluter seeking to shirk its obligations. The future for our residents, communities and wildlife depends on a complete remediation. We cannot accept less. ”

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro, a Republican, said in a statement that too much work has been done to leave dredging undone.

“Together, we have worked for more than a generation to restore the Hudson River to a safe, healthy and thriving ecosystem as it remains an invaluable cultural, environmental and economic resource for countless communities,” Molinaro said. “In April, these efforts were dealt a critical blow when the EPA issued a grossly premature Certification of Completion of Remedial Action.”

Molinaro said the certificate limits the EPA’s ability “to achieve a true and lasting cleanup and is a significant obstacle to holding the polluters accountable for further remediation efforts.

Molinaro said Dutchess County “sands with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Governor Cuomo, and Attorney General James in holding the EPA responsible for its erroneous determination.”

“This suit makes it clear the communities of the Hudson River Valley will not settle for anything less than a complete recovery and demands responsible parties be held accountable for their egregious treatment of our beloved river,” Molinaro said.

Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan, a Democrat, also lauded the filing of the lawsuit.

“We can’t let GE off the hook for the mess they made of our precious Hudson River,” Ryan said in a statement. “As County Executive, I’ll continue to fight big corporations who pollute our environment and protect our county from harmful policies due to the neglect of the federal government.”

Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, D-Kingston, who is a longtime advocate for the Hudson River revitalization, said the General Electric cleanup is not close to being done. He also praised the filing of a lawsuit.

“This is a matter I have been concerned with from the inception,” Cahill said in an email. “I believe the ecology of the river is such that the partial clean up at Fort Edward does little to assuage the pollution here in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

“I have been advised that the tidal force of the river creates eddies here that prevent pollutants from fully flowing into the Atlantic, but instead cause them to settle in the deep silt filled trenches of our portion of the Hudson.”

Environmental groups such as Scenic Hudson of Poughkeepsie said there would be devastating effects if the EPA decision is allowed to stand.

“If EPA is allowed to let General Electric off the hook when the data clearly shows the cleanup has failed to achieve the very goals it set, people of the region will suffer the health and economic consequences, while the integrity of the federal Superfund program will forever be undermined,” said Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan in a statement.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Executive Director Greg Williams said the organization supports the lawsuit filing.

“Since GE settled the case in 2005, they have spent less than 1.5 percent of its profits on cleaning up the mess it made in the Hudson River,” Williams said in a statement. “Asking New Yorkers to wait another fifty years to be able to safely eat the fish is neither reasonable, nor lawful.”

State Sen. Jen Metzger, D-Rosendale, said she and others sent a letter in February to EPA Administrator Pete Lopez “urging that the agency not issue the certificate of completion to GE for the Hudson River clean-up.

"It is clear that GE has not finished the job and that unacceptable levels of PCBs continue to pollute the Hudson, particularly in the lower parts of the river," Metzger said in a statement.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

DAILY FREEMAN

Dutchess County to file brief supporting lawsuit filed against EPA to vacate Hudson River cleanup certificate

August 23, 2019



County Executive Marc Molinaro announced on Friday that Dutchess County will file an amicus-curiae brief with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York in support of the New York State lawsuit filed against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The suit — filed by New York State Attorney General Letitia James, the State Department of Environmental Conservation and Governor Andrew Cuomo — asserts the EPA violated federal law when, in April, it issued a "Certificate of Completion" to General Electric Company indicating that GE's clean-up efforts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were complete and the EPA agrees not to sue GE in the future. The certificate was issued despite indication that concentrations of PCB, a known human carcinogen, remain dangerously high in the Hudson River.

County Executive Molinaro said, "The EPA's decision to conclude the active remediation component of this Superfund site, despite its research findings to the contrary, especially since so many Dutchess County residents rely on the Hudson River as a drinking water source as well as for natural resources, recreation, and their livelihood, is a dereliction of its duty to the environment and the countless communities along the river's banks.

"I highly commend the work of groups such as Riverkeeper, led by President Paul Gallay, and Scenic Hudson, led by President Ned Sullivan, who have not only been a loud voice advocating for completing the clean-up, but have also diligently and independently studied our beloved river and continue to share their findings to inform and protect our community.

"The EPA's grossly premature Certification of Completion is a dangerous and critical blow to these ongoing efforts to restore the Hudson River to a safe, healthy and thriving ecosystem. This certificate creates significant obstacles to holding the polluter accountable for future remediation efforts necessary for true and lasting cleanup and it cannot stand."

The Hudson River PCB Superfund stretches 180 miles from Hudson Falls in Washington County to New York City and is divided into the Upper Hudson River, which runs 40 miles between Hudson Falls and Troy in Rensselaer County, and the Lower Hudson River, which runs from Troy 140 miles to the southern tip of Manhattan.

In 2017, the EPA's review of the remediation project found approximately 54 tons of PCBs remain in the Upper River site. Additionally, the report found cleanup efforts were not adequate to protect human health and the environment, and it will take more than 50 years to achieve that level of protection. The report also noted the Lower Hudson River section, including Dutchess County communities, has received no health or environmental benefits from the upriver dredging.

County Executive Molinaro said, "Dutchess County remains committed to restoring the health and vitality of the Hudson River and we must hold the EPA responsible. I fully support vacating the Certificate of Completion until this critical cleanup continues to acceptable levels.

"The communities of the Hudson River Valley will not settle for anything less than a complete recovery and now, more than ever, we must come together and raise our voices even louder to hold the polluters accountable for their past treatment of our Hudson River. We have one opportunity to fully restore and revitalize our beloved river, preserving it for generations to come. We cannot stand by and let the EPA's erroneous determination go unchallenged."

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT NEWS

[Pallone says 'living shorelines' can help protect coastal towns from flooding](#)

AUGUST 23, 2019

BRENDA FLANAGAN / NJTV NEWS – In the battle against rising ocean levels, so-called living shorelines are a less expensive — and some say better — alternative to jetties, seawalls and other man-made barriers, a natural remedy that can be especially effective in helping bayside communities deal with coastal flooding.

On Thursday, U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone came to Keyport along the Raritan Bay to tout legislation he's sponsoring that would make federal grants available to communities that tap the technology, which uses oyster beds, marshlands and beach grass to serve as a buffer to absorb incoming wave energy ...

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NEW JERSEY HERALD

[Budd Lake Beach closed for season, still impacted by algal bloom](#)



Photo by Daniel Freel/New Jersey Herald - The beach at Budd Lake in Mount Olive, seen on Aug. 5, has since closed for the season, while the lake is still under a state warning because of a harmful algal bloom.

By Jennifer Jean Miller New Jersey Herald

August 23, 2019

MOUNT OLIVE -- Although Budd Lake Beach officially closed for the season on Aug. 18, the beach posted a message effective Tuesday for its followers to continue to avoid contact with the lake's water.

According to the post on the Budd Lake Beach Facebook Page, the beach never reopened after the state Department of Environmental Protection ordered the Mount Olive Health Department to close it on July 29 because of a confirmed case of a harmful algal bloom.

This was the second beach closure Budd Lake Beach experienced this season, the first being on July 18. The beach reopened on July 24 after subsequent water tests showed the bloom diminished below the New Jersey Health Advisory Guidance levels threshold of 20,000 cyanobacteria cells per milliliter -- the cells known to cause a range of health complications.

"There is still a large algae bloom in effect, please avoid fishing, boating and other aquatic activities," said a message on the Budd Lake Beach website, in addition to advising of the closure for the season. "The NJ DEP and Health Department are continually testing the water quality to ensure the safety of our residents."

In addition to Budd Lake Beach's closure, the DEP announced on its webpage Wednesday that the Sussex County Fire Academy Pond, located in Hampton, has also been impacted with a case of harmful algal bloom.

Sussex County Fire Marshal Virgil Rome confirmed Thursday that water from the pond would not be used during the presence of a bloom outbreak. However, Rome was uncertain if any training at the Fire Academy would be impacted due to the water issue.

Larry Bono, of the Sussex County Fire Academy, could not be reached for comment.

The DEP has continued testing the waters of Lake Hopatcong, another lake that has been heavily impacted, throughout the summer. While the DEP has approved the reopening of nine beaches lakewide, many areas throughout the lake are still above the threshold. The DEP noted in its Tuesday aerial surveillance that the bloom is still present throughout the lake, with higher levels of the bloom at the extreme northern section of the lake and River Styx's Crescent Cove section.

Lake Musconetcong has also been battling the bloom since Aug. 1. The Lake Musconetcong Community Association posted on its website photos of the green-hued algae in the lake and advised followers to not have contact with the water, not eat fish from the lake and to keep pets from drinking or swimming in the water.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NEW JERSEY HEARLD

Sight of web worms in local trees not cause for alarm



Photos by Bruce A Scruton/New Jersey Herald — A tree along Sussex County Route 560 in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is covered with the nests of web worms, a type of caterpillar which appears in the fall. Although unsightly, the insects' eating habits and messy webs spun for protection are not harmful to healthy trees.

By [Bruce A. Scruton](#) New Jersey Herald

August 23, 2019

SANDYSTON -- Web worms are not internet tunes that get in your head.

Web worms are actually the species of caterpillar which have spun hundreds of silken blobs in the trees along one of the busiest roads in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Cross over the Dingmans Bridge and begin the climb into New Jersey. For the next mile, it seems every tree has the silken webs on the ends of branches.

"It seems to me there's a lot of black walnut (trees) on that hillside," explained Kara Deutsch, chief of resource management for the park. "That is one of the species they like."

In actuality, the web worms, which spin their protective tents in late summer, are unlikely to cause any permanent damage to the trees, she explained, unlike the Eastern tent caterpillar, which spins similar structures in the spring.

In the fall, trees have already taken up and produced most of the food they will get for the season, while in the spring, the leaves are just beginning to do their work and it takes a lot of energy for the tree to grow new foliage.

This particular infestation disappears once the road crests the hill and heads down into the hamlet of Layton, and that's not unusual since there are few trees there which are on the web worm menu.

The fall web worms are native to much of North America and, in a kind of reverse perversion, are one of the few insects which have become an invasive species in other parts of the world.

The webs being spun are the insects method of protecting themselves from predators, except maybe for bears looking for a quick snack within reach as they forage to fatten up for the winter.

As the caterpillars leave the nests, preparing to pupate, they become food for migrating birds, the chief said.

Carrying the scientific name of *Hyphantria cunea*, the fall web worm is the larval form of a small white moth commonly seen in summer months.

Eventually the nests will break apart, and the caterpillars will spin themselves into a cocoon, dropping to the ground to overwinter in bark and debris.

In the spring, the adults will emerge from the cocoon, mate and lay hundreds of eggs on the underside of leaves, beginning a new life cycle.

The caterpillars mature in about six weeks, covering the trees -- they also like other nut and fruit tree leaves -- with bigger and bigger nests.

The impact of these pests is usually fleeting and mostly cosmetic, Deutsch said.

The caterpillar "hasn't been a management issue for us," she added, "and our (National Park Service) policy is let natural processes take their course unless there's a threat to something."

The chief said the park is taking action on non-native and invasive species such as the spotted lanternfly and the emerald ash borer, both of which are either in the park or in areas adjacent to the park.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NEW JERSEY HERALD

[Experts offer ways to combat algal blooms](#)



Photo by Jennifer Jean Miller/New Jersey Herald - Stephen J. Souza, founding partner of Princeton Hydro and owner of Clear Waters Consulting LLC., speaks to a capacity crowd during an informational forum on Tuesday at the Lake Mohawk Country Club in Sparta to discuss the recent harmful algal blooms that are affecting local lakes.

By [Jennifer Jean Miller](#) New Jersey Herald

August 22, 2019

SPARTA -- The creation of rain gardens and stormwater utilities were a couple of the points a panel of experts offered on Tuesday night at the Lake Mohawk Country Club during a special informational meeting about harmful algal blooms.

More than 300 people from as far away as Bergen County crowded the country club's ballroom for the meeting, which started at 7:30 p.m. and continued past 10, to hear the perspectives of three panelists about the algal blooms that have paralyzed lakes throughout the state with no-swimming advisories. The panelists discussed long-term management plans they suggested would be helpful to mitigate the blooms.

The panelists were Stephen J Souza, Ph.D., founding partner of Princeton Hydro and owner of Clear Waters Consulting LLC.; James F. Cosgrove, founder of Omni Environmental Group LLC and vice president of Kleinfelder Inc.; and Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., extension specialist in water resources with Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Obropta is also a professor at Rutgers School of Environmental & Biological Sciences.

Each panelist presented a segment during the program, which was hosted by the non-profit Lake Mohawk Preservation Foundation and co-sponsored with the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.

Ed Potosnak, executive director of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, was the event moderator and read audience-submitted questions on index cards to the panelists. Audience members were also able to ask questions from a microphone stationed at the room's front.

Souza explained the differences between harmless and harmful bloom varieties. The harmful type contains cyanobacteria, which can cause health complications in humans, pets and livestock, and can have a detrimental impact on lake ecosystems. Souza said particular treatments, such as using copper to counter the blooms, can temporarily relieve lakes, but can cause the bacteria to release phosphorus, the nutrient that feeds the blooms. Souza said one pound of phosphorus can produce 1,000 pounds of algae.

He also said long-term exposure to cyanobacteria, especially through drinking, has been linked to neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. He referenced a harmful bloom incident from Lake Erie that triggered a shut down of the water supply in Toledo, Ohio, in 2013.

Obropta said stormwater runoff contributes to feeding harmful algae growth, and communities should ideally band together on a regional level to mitigate the issues. Starting on a neighborhood scale, with residential programs for rain barrels and rain gardens, is helpful, he said. Rutgers Cooperative Extension offers a rain garden rebate program with the New Jersey Water Supply Authority Watershed Protection Program to homeowners who build rain gardens, Obropta said.

Cosgrove discussed the importance of stormwater management. He advocated the formation of municipal stormwater utilities, which he said were not permitted until Gov. Phil Murphy signed the Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act in March, nicknamed the "rain tax" by opponents. Cosgrove said fees from utilities can be reduced through credits from stormwater improvements, and said it is a myth this type of utility would create a bureaucracy. Cosgrove said there are more than 1,700 stormwater utilities established already nationwide with average annual residential fees set at \$50 per user. Cosgrove said churches, schools and universities -- which are usually tax-exempt but have large parking lots that can cause runoff issues -- would also be required to pay the utility fees.

Audience members raised several concerns on their index card questions, which were read to the panelists. One question pertained to how individuals can help to reduce the algal blooms. Souza said use of phosphorus-free fertilizers was helpful, and Obropta said by re-directing roof runoff into rain barrels and gardens.

One of the questions asked during the public portion pertained to composting and if runoff from compost could exacerbate the algae. Obropta said it was possible, and municipalities may have or could establish compost sites where residents could bring grass clippings and other vegetation that may be phosphorus producers.

Reactions from officials

Several municipal officials and state representatives were present at the meeting. Hopatcong Mayor Michael Francis said Wednesday he disagreed with the idea of stormwater utilities, believing they could trigger another layer of bureaucracy. He also said he believed a regional approach would not benefit small towns, and said the state Department

of Environmental Protection should step up and provide guidance to municipalities, including on rain gardens. Francis said he will be meeting with the DEP to discuss short- and long-term solutions for Hopatcong.

Although Assemblyman Hal Wirths, R-24th Dist., was not present, he released a statement on Wednesday that he was shocked to hear from his staff the information presented about the "rain tax," which he voted against, especially that churches and schools -- typically tax-exempt and with schools funded through property taxes -- would be subject to fees. Wirths said municipalities and counties had the power all along to spend on stormwater management through a bond referendum, but the law created a new fee-collecting bureaucracy, with few government constraints. Like Francis, he said the DEP could help, suggesting the DEP could use boat registration and boat launch fees from Lake Hopatcong -- a lake the state owns -- to counter the blooms.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NEW JERSEY HERALD

State: Harmful algal bloom in Greenwood Lake has increased

By [Jennifer Jean Miller](#) New Jersey Herald

Posted: Aug. 22, 2019

Reports from the state Department of Environmental Protection showed the harmful algal bloom in Greenwood Lake has increased.

The DEP on Tuesday said the phycocyanin levels -- the pigment from the bloom visible from the air -- were deemed high throughout the lake. The DEP also noted that the spatial distribution of the bloom in the lake, which runs between New Jersey and New York, has widened.

The DEP's previous flyover report on Aug. 9 indicated that the bloom's concentration, while still present lakewide, is greater in particular areas.

Water tests should not have a cell count greater than 20,000 per milliliter per the New Jersey Health Advisory Guidance levels. The cyanobacteria tested for during water samplings, if greater than 20,000 cells per milliliter, may cause health issues including respiratory and gastrointestinal problems, flu-like symptoms, skin rashes and eye irritation.

The cyanobacteria counts at all areas tested at Greenwood Lake have been above advisory guidance levels since July 10. During the most recent DEP tests on Monday, there was an increase in the mid-lake north vicinity, at 69,750 cells per milliliter -- that number was 55,250 on Aug. 14. Another increase showed at Browns Point, rising to 76,250 on Monday from 58,875 on Aug. 14.

The Greenwood Lake Beach Association, near New York's border in West Milford, showed a sharp increase on Monday to 85,500 from 38,500 on Aug. 14.

The New Jersey span of Greenwood Lake has remained under a no-swimming advisory since July 17, when the DEP ordered local health departments to close beaches, with bodily contact with the water not recommended. Passive recreational activities such as boating on deck-style boats and fishing were not part of the advisory.

"The impact of the DEP's failure to deal with overdevelopment and stormwater runoff have created these blooms and they're not going to go away," Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said in a statement Wednesday about Greenwood Lake's results and the issues with the blooms statewide.

Algal bloom outbreaks have also challenged Lake Hopatcong throughout the summer, closing all beach areas until Aug. 13. According to the DEP, Pebble Beach, Sand Harbor, Bass Rock Beach, Sperry Springs Beach, Beck Lane Beach, CAPP Beach, Byram Bay Community Club Beach and Clearwater Beach have since been cleared to reopen.

Lake Musconetcong in Stanhope and Budd Lake in Mount Olive have also been under no-swimming advisories from harmful algal blooms since Aug. 1.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NEWSDAY

Building on sand: The effort to protect Long Island's communities, beaches

By Joan Gralla

August 22, 2019

Picture a washing machine. Now imagine nearly 50 million of them lining the 6.5-mile strip of white sand at Wantagh's Jones Beach State Park, located just 35 miles east of Manhattan on a barrier island in the Great South Bay claimed by both Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Henry J. Bokuniewicz, distinguished service professor at Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, estimated that's how much sand — 25 million cubic yards — Jones Beach has had poured on it since the 1950s.

That is the equivalent of all those washing machines, as two of them equal about one cubic yard. All of that sand has been placed on Jones Beach — much of it dredged at great expense from Fire Island Inlet — to keep the channel open for boaters and to combat nature's relentless erosion.

Both scientists and longtime beachgoers agree on at least one point: The millions of cubic yards of sand poured on South Shore barrier islands over the years have traveled in unexpected ways.

Jones Beach and its western cousin, Babylon's Robert Moses State Park, for example, each have narrowed in the east and fattened in the west.

The impetus for the continuing infusion of sand — and indeed an effect of it — is the desire to protect the still-growing, low-lying bay communities and Fire Island, a beloved summer resort just 65 miles from New York City on a barrier island that overlaps the eastern end of Jones Beach Island.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a \$1.2-billion plan for Suffolk's 83-mile long southern coast that includes building dunes on Fire Island and marshes in the bays. The Fire Island to Montauk Point plan, yet to be finalized, also would raise or flood-proof 4,400 at-risk homes. On an annual basis, FIMP would cost just over \$67 million — and save nearly \$73 million by reducing storm damage, the Army Corps says.

Critics, however, say the Army Corps overstated the plan's benefits by inflating the likely flooding caused by breaches on Fire Island. Navigational inlets pose a far graver threat, they say, but closing them with surge barriers would cost billions of dollars and trap pollution in the Great South Bay — and possibly flood areas outside the gates.

Fears that the one breach superstorm Sandy cut through Fire Island in 2012 that was left open would increase flooding in the bay were not borne out, scientists say. Instead the breach at Old Inlet, expected to close on its own though the experts cannot say when, cleansed pollution in that area, delighting fishermen.

As a temporary measure, the Army Corps has spent at least \$207 million building table-height dunes with nearly 7 million cubic yards of sand on the one-third of the 32-mile long Fire Island that is dominated by summer homes — but not in the national park.

That sand, the Army Corps says, will have to be replenished every four years over the next 30 years, at an estimated cost of \$525 million to state and federal taxpayers.

As this and similar projects make clear: South Shore beaches, since the last century, have received much more sand than the Netherlands a few years ago used for its Sand Motor, or Sand Engine. For that anti-flood project, about 28 million cubic yards of sand were scooped out of the North Sea, forming a new approximately \$81-million peninsula. The ocean is expected to relocate that sand along six miles or so of coast to protect the mainland without dictating where the sand migrates.

Back on Long Island, the results of about a century of dredging, dune building and installing groins and jetties on the South Shore reveal how complicated and perhaps impossible it is to predict the outcome of projects that look certain to work on paper — until they are built and subjected to powerful winds, tides and storms, scientists say. And these experiences suggest proceeding with caution, they say.

In the past two decades, Robert Moses State Park has received about 3.5 million cubic yards of sand, Bokuniewicz estimated.

His calculations are in addition to the 40 million cubic yards of sand that built the 1929 Jones Beach State Park and the parkways in the early years of their development.

How much sand was poured onto Long Island's first state park, the 1924 Fire Island State Park, after the deadly 1938 hurricane called the Long Island Express, apparently was not recorded. Histories only say it was enough to raise the elevation of the park that lies east and south of Jones Beach and was named after master planner Robert Moses in 1964, to 18 feet above the mean sea level.

Fire Island National Seashore, the national park east of Robert Moses State Park on the barrier island it shares, also was created in 1964.

The wind and waves, hitting the South Shore at an angle, carry sand from the east to the west, and, geologists say, likely on toward the New York Harbor, where the tides push it out to sea — or possibly even south to Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

“What jumps out geologically is ‘Wow, that is a lot of sand in the system, when you see that westward migration,” said Erika Lentz, a U.S. Geological Survey research geologist at Massachusetts’ Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center.

While beaches tend to gain sand in summer, when winds and waves are calmer, powerful winter storms accelerate the westward flow, which for Long Island starts out around Montauk, at the easternmost end of Long Island.

“That bluff is eroding, and that liberates sand to feed the beach,” Lentz said.

Sandbars and underwater glacial deposits add to the Island's supply, geologists say. “Every time a wave comes onto the beach and crashes, it picks up grains of sand, and then pushes them back out,” said Christopher Hein, assistant professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences in Gloucester Point.

Swimmers here are familiar with the waves' westward push.

“It’s the same thing; on Robert Moses: When you leave your towel, you go out, you’re playing in the water, and when you come back, you notice your towel is up the beach from you,” said Hein, a Commack native. “That is the process of ‘longshore transport.’ ”

No one quite knows what the South Shore would look like had engineers not tried to anchor the beaches in place.

“It’s difficult to untangle the human influence today from what would naturally be happening,” Hein said.

How different projects — groins, jetties, bulkheads and dunes — affect one another often is not fully grasped.

“These features are intended to serve the area they are directly adjacent to, but that’s part of what makes coastal management so difficult. It’s part of this large, dynamic system in which doing something somewhere also affects your neighbor,” Lentz said.

However, the way Long Island’s barrier islands have shape-shifted over nearly two centuries can be readily studied because the New York Harbor area is where the first federal surveyors set to work in the 1830s.

“Those are very detailed and accurate shorelines,” Lentz said, explaining the maps’ value led the USGS to digitize them despite the effort and expense.

Consider Bay Shore's Captree State Park, partly located on the eastern end of Jones Beach Island.

“You can see that in the 1830s maps, Captree used to be a barrier island,” said Hein. “Jones Beach Island used to be exposed to the main ocean; Robert Moses has gotten longer and extended.”

Geologists agree that building the jetty at Fire Island’s Inlet in 1941 halted the island’s westward expansion that — at a rate of about 200 feet a year — added six miles to its length, when measured from the original 1826 lighthouse that once stood next to it.

Without the jetty, Michael S. Fenster, director of environmental studies at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, said: “It looks like, if nature were left to run its course, the end of Robert Moses beach — that’s Fire Island — it looks like it would connect to Jones Beach.”

In 1959, the 875-yard-long sand dike called Sore Thumb was built on Jones Beach Island, extending south into the bay, between Oak and Cedar beaches. While it helped reduce some erosion on Jones Beach Island and block the inlet from moving north, geologists say, the inlet remains a star sand trap.

For decades, tens of millions of dollars have been spent pumping its sand back to the beaches. “It’s kind of stuck in this cycle,” Lentz said.

Last year, for example, the Army Corps said it spent \$26 million pumping out 2.1 million cubic yards of sand. Much of that sand was destined — yet again — for Babylon’s Gilgo State Park, about 10 miles east of Jones Beach.

Gilgo, popular with the surfing and fishing crowd, was closed because of severe erosion in 2016. That was only three years after the ocean reclaimed the sand from a \$15 million dredging project focused on the state park.

Ultimately, scientists say, the vast amounts of sand placed on the South Shore beaches obscures any analysis of its impact.

“Beaches are dynamic,” said Courtney Melrose, a geologist who works at Garvies Point Museum & Preserve in Glen Cove. “If you have something artificially made bigger, nature over time is going to make an impact, making it bigger or smaller, depending on the erosional process that is happening to it.”

Consider the varying ways Robert Moses State Park has responded. From 1960 to 2000, its eastern beach widened just 11 yards, according to the latest USGS comparative data. The western beach, however, grew much farther into the sea: about 219 yards.

Jones Beach State Park, over the much longer period from 1830 to 2000, appears to have widened more evenly. Both its eastern and western ends expanded into the Atlantic by about the same 219 yards, the USGS maps show.

Yet, a shorter time frame paints a starkly different picture, likely revealing Fire Island Inlet jetty’s impact. From 1947 to 2000, the east end of Jones Beach State Park narrowed by 88 yards, the maps show.

“Sand that would have been feeding Jones Beach before 1947 now is being caught by the jetty; to a certain extent that might be exacerbating the 80 meters of erosion,” said Lentz, using the metric equivalent of 88 yards.

“It appears to be a more localized issue, which is why you have some accretion downdrift,” she added. Downdrift is the net longshore transport of sand. In 1975, Field 9, the park’s easternmost lot, was closed because of erosion. Nearby Field 6 now is often the most popular spot to park as the walk to the sea is much shorter than from western lots.

During the same 1947-2000 period, the western end of Jones Beach widened by 252 yards, the maps show.

The jetty also appears to be accelerating Gilgo’s erosion in the east.

“Democrat Point, that little point of land on the westernmost tip of Robert Moses, that sand should be moving over ... to the Gilgo area and to Jones Beach,” Hein said.

“It should be going across the inlet. It’s not; it’s stopping,” he said.

For decades, scientists have studied the role of Long Island’s barrier islands and how to preserve them, from continuing to spend countless millions of dollars dredging inlets and replacing sand on beaches to spending much more installing enormously expensive floodgates at Fire Island Inlet in the west and Moriches Inlet in the east.

A novel approach, explored by Army Corps experts Nicholas C. Kraus and John F. Tavoraro, who joined Florida Tech professor Gary A. Zarillo in a 2003 report, is moving the Fire Island Inlet back to its 19th century location, six miles east.

Returning the inlet to its original site by digging a new channel in the barrier island would boost the flow of water in and out of the Great South Bay and increase sand shoals in the inlet, the report said. Abandoning the current inlet would free sand to flow to western beaches, such as Gilgo, for half a century to a century, the report said. Oak Beach would be shielded, and the relocated jetty “would impound sediment, gradually building the width of the fragile beaches of Fire Island located to the east,” the report said, though it added further study of “potentially unacceptable negative consequences” — such as the risk of higher storm surges — needs to be analyzed.

Geologists say that over the next decades society likely will have to decide whether, how and at what potentially astronomical cost coastal areas should be shielded as the climate warms, storms intensify and the

seas rise. Whether or how long federal taxpayers will continue to pay for the protections needed so that people can live by the water — either in vacation or permanent homes — is unknown. Some scientists say that in the future society likely will only be able to shield urban areas, such as Coney Island, or New York City's major airports.

“People really are the wild card when it comes to coastal management,” Lentz said.

For now, the Fire Island jetty is preventing sand from growing the island to the west.

“Regarding how far west Fire Island can grow: probably not too much farther than it is now since maintenance of the inlet channel will almost certainly prevent the island from growing much more, even though there is clearly net east-to-west longshore sediment transport,” Andy Coburn, associate director, Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University, said by email.

Over time, however, the jetty’s impact has lessened. Coburn said: “Although the jetty has clearly slowed expansion of the island to the west, it doesn’t look like it has much sediment trapping ability left since there isn’t much of the jetty sticking out at the ocean end, and sand seems to be getting around it.”

If dredging were stopped at the Fire Island Inlet, the barrier island likely would resume growing west, geologists say, though any extra shelter for the mainland could be limited.

“Considering the eastern end of Jones Beach Island is north of the west end of Fire Island, I don’t see how any extension of Fire Island will provide any additional degree of protection to the mainland,” Coburn said.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

LONG BEACH, PATCH

[Politicians Renew Support For Cleanup Of Navy-Grumman Plume](#)

The reaffirmed calls come after Northrop Grumman deemed the state's \$585 million plan to clean the plume "impractical."

By Michael DeSantis

August 22, 2019)



Local politicians have renewed their calls for the complete cleanup of the Navy-Grumman plume of toxic water that has plagued Bethpage and threatened nearby communities.

Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino and Town and other local officials rallied on Tuesday for Northrop Grumman to step up and take appropriate action regarding the plume.

"For far too long both the Navy and Grumman have dragged their feet with years of testing and no cleanup," Saladino stated. "The time for testing and studying has come to a close and the time to act is here."

In May, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced a New York State plan to fully contain and treat the Navy-Grumman plume at an estimated cost of \$585 million. The Department of Environmental Conservation's investigation of the nearly four-mile long and two-mile wide plume confirmed that the construction, long-term operation and maintenance of a full containment and treatment system is viable and could prevent the further spread of toxins.

However, Northrop Grumman recently urged the state to withdraw its plan to clean and contain the contaminated water, calling the proposal "unnecessary, infeasible, and impractical," per Newsday.

The DEC's plan to hold the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman accountable includes the construction of 24 groundwater extraction wells, five treatment plants, four recharge basins, and approximately 24 miles of conveyance piping.

Saladino noted that the Department of Environmental Conservation's amended decision on the best method for remediation calls for the greatest protection for residents.

"Combined with new leadership at the DEC, a collaborative approach to finally containing and treating the plume by working with the U.S. Geologic Survey and utilizing the latest technology has produced a plan that will accomplish what Grumman and the Navy have for years failed to accomplish," Saladino said. "The DEC's reports have already proven that there is solid and irrefutable scientific data to support that this immense plume could indeed be both contained and the hot spots treated to insure that the contaminants are fully removed."

Senator Kevin Thomas reaffirmed his support of the state's plan on Monday in the wake of Northrop Grumman's push-back, per a press release.

He stated, "Our communities depend on clean, quality drinking water. Containing and treating the groundwater contamination from the Grumman/Navy Plume is of critical importance to the safety of our residents and our way of life. Residents deserve a long-term solution, and polluters must be held accountable."

[BACK TO TOP](#)

NJ ADVANCE MEDIA

[Owner of massive illegal dump agrees to cut back on work as state investigates](#)

August 22, 2019



For at least the next month, neighbors of a massive illegal dump in Ocean County will get a reprieve.

Sam Russo, who the state alleges has for years used two businesses he owns to unlawfully dump solid waste at his 94-acre lot in the New Egypt section of Plumsted Township, has agreed to cut back on his work for the next 30 days as the legal storm hovering over him develops.

The agreement comes in the form of a consent order between Russo, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office that was read into the record during a hearing before Ocean County Superior Court Judge Craig Wellerson on Wednesday morning.

The agreement comes after the state sued Russo for violating a 2017 settlement that was supposed to be the culmination of years of illegal dumping at the property. Russo's neighbors have long complained of a stench from the property, constant noise from heavy machinery operating during the night and an unending stream of dump trucks traveling back roads to reach the lot.

In 2018, the NJDEP tied dumped food waste at Russo's property to a fish kill in a pond at a neighboring retirement community that left hundreds of fish dead and the water tainted with a brown-orange color and a citrus smell.

Russo, who keeps pigs and a herd of cattle on the property, has long claimed that he is operating a farm and is protected by the state's Right to Farm Act.

With Wednesday's consent order, Russo agreed to stop all imports of soil, asphalt and concrete to the property. He will also limit any import of food waste and lawn clippings to what is approved by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture for feeding his livestock.

Beyond the new limits for solid waste, Russo agreed to seal the dry wells on his property and move any solid waste equipment — like dumpsters — stored at the lot to another place. The wells and the stored equipment had been identified as potential sources of water pollution in the state's original complaint.

Finally, Russo agreed to give NJDEP officials access to his property so that samples can be taken and later tested for possible contamination.

Russo and his attorneys all declined to comment on the consent order, as did the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT

[New York Among Major Cities Violating Ozone Standards, EPA Says](#)

August 22, 2019



The EPA has determined that Chicago, Dallas, Houston-Galveston, New York City, and San Diego are in serious violation of the 2008 national ozone standards, up from being just “moderately” out of compliance with the limits.

In a final rule scheduled for Aug. 23 publication, the EPA said these five major cities, along with two other localities spanning greater Connecticut and the western part of Nevada County, Calif., failed to meet their July 2018 deadline to meet the ozone limits.

In that same rule, the EPA also determined that Baltimore and Mariposa County, Calif., are now meeting the 75 parts per billion standard.

Under the Clean Air Act, a locality that is reclassified from moderate to serious noncompliance with federal air quality standards has to impose additional controls to curb ozone-forming pollutants. Each state has to submit a plan to the EPA detailing how it plans to improve air quality to meet the federal limits.

For these localities, that usually means enhanced vehicle inspections and maintenance, strict compliance with New Source Review permits for any expansion and construction projects, and more frequent monitoring.

Ground level ozone is formed by the reaction of sunlight with nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that are released by burning fossil fuels in automobiles and trucks as well as power plants, refineries, and other pollution-emitting factories.

Eastern states that make up the the 12-state Ozone Transport Commission are trying to get the EPA to impose pollution controls on power plants that release nitrogen oxides, an ozone precursor. These states, including New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, have repeatedly told the EPA they won't be able to meet federal ozone standards because of pollution blowing across state lines from Pennsylvania.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

QUEENS CHRONICLE

[They wing it at weather-weakened bird fest](#)

BY ANTHONY O'REILLY

August 22, 2019



As passionate birders and wildlife advocates walked the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Center's trail, they spent just as much time swatting away mosquitoes as they did spotting shorebirds.

That's because, according to the organizers of the 14th annual Shorebird Festival, the conditions on Aug. 17 were not too conducive to birding. It was quite muggy and overcast as Don Riepe, president of the American Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter, and others led dozens on the walk.

The East Pond, normally overflowing with a variety of birds, was just overflowing on that day — in other words, it was flooded. Program leader Kevin Karlson said the pond's conditions were a consequence of climate change.

The birders who showed up bright and early made the best of the situation, spotting plenty of feathered friends along the trail, including ducks.

One of the bay's many ospreys was on a nesting platform, left. Terns, center, flew over the trail and landed on the water.

Professional wildlife photographer Lloyd Spitalnik, in blue shirt above, led a seminar on shorebird photography, Karlson taught the crowd how to identify different shorebirds and other experts shared their knowledge of coastal avian life.

Keep your talons crossed for better weather next year!

[BACK TO TOP](#)

WATER ONLINE

[Governor Cuomo And Attorney General James Announce Lawsuit Against Trump Administration Over Hudson River Cleanup](#)

Suit Alleges that EPA Prematurely Issued a "Certificate of Completion" to GE for Hudson River PCB Cleanup; Monitoring Data Demonstrates that Hudson River Fish Remain Too Toxic to Eat

August 21, 2019

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Attorney General Letitia James recently filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violating federal law when it issued a "Certificate of Completion" to General Electric Company for its removal of polychlorinated biphenyls from the Hudson River. The EPA issued the certificate to GE on April 11, 2019, finding that the company's required cleanup of PCBs from the river was complete, despite evidence that concentrations remain dangerously high in portions of the river.

On the day the EPA issued the Certificate of Completion, the EPA's Five-Year Review found that the cleanup was not adequately protective of human health and the environment. The EPA concluded that the Agency does not have sufficient information to even determine if or when the cleanup would meet this standard. For this and other reasons, the lawsuit charges that the EPA's issuance of the Certificate of Completion to GE is beyond the Agency's legal authority and should be vacated.

"Trump's EPA is failing New Yorkers and the environment by putting the priorities of polluters first," Governor Cuomo said. "The Hudson River is among New York's most precious natural and economic resources, but despite years of dredging, levels of PCB contamination are still unacceptably high in the river and in fish. We have an obligation to protect the health and vitality of both the Hudson River and the communities along its banks for current and future generations. Since the EPA has failed to hold GE accountable for restoring the river, New York is taking action to demand a full and complete remediation."

"We will not allow the EPA to let big polluters like General Electric off the hook without a fight," said Attorney General James. "The facts are clear: Hudson River fish remain much too contaminated with PCBs to safely eat, and EPA admits they don't know when - or if - they ever will be. EPA can't ignore these facts - or the law - and simply pronounce GE's cleanup of PCBs complete. That is why we filed this lawsuit to force EPA to follow the law and require GE to truly complete its PCB cleanup and finally return the full use of the Hudson River to the people of New York."

Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "Instead of fighting to protect our environment and the health of our communities, EPA is giving GE a free pass after decades of contamination. By allowing GE to walk away from the Hudson River cleanup, EPA is abandoning its mission and leaving a job unfinished. Today, New York is doing what we must to compel EPA and GE to finish the job and protect public health, our irreplaceable Hudson River environment, and the communities that depend on a clean and healthy river."

The Hudson River PCB Superfund site encompasses a nearly 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River from Hudson Falls, New York, downstream to the Battery in New York City. The site is divided into two major areas: the Upper Hudson River, which runs from Hudson Falls downstream to the Federal Dam at Troy (a distance of approximately 40 miles); and the Lower Hudson River, which runs from the Federal Dam at Troy 140 miles downstream to the southern tip of Manhattan at the Battery in New York City.

In February 2002, the EPA finalized a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Upper Hudson River Superfund site to address the contaminated river sediments. The EPA's 2002 ROD selected sediment dredging of highly-contaminated areas to address PCB contamination in the Upper River. GE implemented targeted dredging of approximately 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment pursuant to the terms of a 2006 Consent Decree, under EPA oversight. This dredging began in spring 2009 and was completed in fall 2015.

Attorney General James found the EPA's Certificate of Completion to be unlawful because the EPA failed to ensure the cleanup would assure the protection of human health and the environment. Recent data reveals PCB concentrations in Hudson River fish remain high - three times higher than the ROD's objective - and, in fact, have remained largely unchanged in the three years since dredging ceased. Studies by the New York State Department of Health and the public

interest groups Scenic Hudson and Sierra Club found that many people are eating fish caught from the PCB-contaminated portion of the Hudson River.

The remedial dredging left far more PCBs in river sediments than had been projected in the ROD, and the EPA's evaluation shows the cleanup left behind roughly 13 tons more PCBs in the Upper River than the ROD anticipated. Approximately 54 tons of PCBs remain in the Upper River.

Attorney General James is bringing today's action against the EPA in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. Given the inadequate cleanup of the Hudson River, the suit asks the District Court to vacate the Agency's Certificate of Completion.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Executive Director Greg Williams said, "We support New York's suit to force the EPA to hold General Electric to account. Since GE settled the case in 2005, they have spent less than 1.5 percent of its profits on cleaning up the mess it made in the Hudson River. Asking New Yorkers to wait another fifty years to be able to safely eat the fish is neither reasonable, nor lawful."

Riverkeeper President Paul Gallay said, "EPA failed our river and our communities by issuing a certificate of completion to GE for a cleanup that is falling woefully short of its targets. If left unchallenged, EPA's decision could needlessly make it much harder for the agency to get GE to finish cleaning up its mess in the Hudson River. We applaud Governor Cuomo and Attorney General James for calling out EPA's abdication of responsibility and standing up for all New Yorkers who demand a healthy Hudson."

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Conservation Director Roger Downs said, "Sierra Club applauds Attorney General James for challenging EPA over their erroneous 'Certificate of Completion' for GE's Hudson River PCB cleanup. EPA is allowing tons of PCBs to remain in river sediments knowing that thousands of New Yorkers - many of whom represent low income, immigrant, and minority communities - supplement the food on their families' tables with contaminated fish they catch in the Hudson River. A full cleanup of the Hudson River is not only the most effective and science-based remedy to the problem, it is the kind of justice these communities deserve."

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said, "Scenic Hudson applauds Governor Andrew Cuomo for his continued strong leadership on this vital environmental, public health and economic issue affecting both New York State and setting precedents for Superfund sites across the nation. And we thank Attorney General Letitia James for defending the Hudson River and challenging EPA's decision to declare the Hudson River cleanup complete. If EPA is allowed to let General Electric off the hook when the data clearly shows the cleanup has failed to achieve the very goals it set, people of the region will suffer the health and economic consequences, while the integrity of the federal Superfund program will forever be undermined. Fish remain so contaminated by GE's cancer-causing chemical that the New York State Department of Health advises children and women under age 50 to eat no fish along the 200-mile stretch of the river from the foothills of the Adirondacks to New York Harbor. This is unacceptable, and we thank Governor Cuomo and Attorney General James for standing up for the Hudson and people against this lawless act."

This matter is being handled for Attorney General James by Assistant Attorneys General Jamie Woods and Brittany Haner, and Environmental Scientist John Davis of the Environmental Protection Bureau, under the supervision of Deputy Bureau Chief Lisa M. Burianek and Bureau Chief Lemuel Srolovic. The Environmental Protection Bureau is part of the Attorney General's Division of Social Justice, which is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Meghan Faux.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

#